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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MASAHIKO KUBOTA, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/878,946 ✓

Filed: June 13, 2001 ✓

For: SOLID SEMICONDUCTOR  
ELEMENT, INK TANK,  
INK JET RECORDING  
APPARATUS PROVIDED  
WITH INK TANK, LIQUID  
INFORMATION ACQUIRING  
METHOD AND LIQUID  
PHYSICAL PROPERTY CHANGE  
DISCRIMINATING METHOD )

Examiner: L. Liang

Group Art Unit: 2853

Date: August 20, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,877,943  
Japan 6-143607  
Japan 7-52387  
Japan 11-138843  
U.S. Published Application No. 2002-8724  
U.S. Published Application No. 2002-30710

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In the interview, the Examiner agreed that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections over U.S. Patent No. 5,509,140 (Koitabashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,179,389 (Arai) and U.S. Patent No. 6,099,101 (Maurelli) were improper, and that, upon the filing of a response, the finality of the rejections would be withdrawn and the claims would be reconsidered.

Accordingly, this paper is being filed, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections against the claims.

A Petition For Extension Of Time extending the period for response for one month, from July 20, 2003 to August 20, 2003, is being filed herewith.

Finally, as to a formal matter, the April 14, 2003 Advisory Action made no mention of the transmitted formal drawings, or the Information Disclosure Statement dated January 13, 2003. However, since the Information Disclosure Statement was filed in conformity with the applicable rules and guidelines, and since the Examiner indicated in the interview that he had received both documents, Applicants assume that the formal drawings have been entered, and that the Information Disclosure Statement has been considered. The next Office Action should indicate if this is not the case.

Separately, a further Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with this response. Once finality is withdrawn, its consideration is deemed proper, and consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.